IN THE BEGINNING



All right team—go get 'em!

(See page 23)

Published Quarterly by
Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas
Vol. 15 - No. 57

IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 15-No. 57 January,1982

Lester A. Harding, Editor

EDITOR'S NOTES — ☒

As has been our custom for several years if there is a red cross in the box above it means that your subscription has expired. The subscription price will be $4.00. The postage and printing has increased, but we can make out at that price. Any postage for those we send will be appreciated, but not entirely necessary.

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We would like to mention here about two important and unusual events that have happened to a couple of our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Black. On September 22, 1981, the 90th birthday of each one was celebrated. Mrs. Black's birthday had occurred on Sept. 6. On November 1, 1911, Warren Black and Sadie Hinderlighter were married and on Sunday, November 1, 1981, they celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary, with members of their family present. Both Mr. and Mrs. Black are fairly active.

We deliver each issue of In The Beginning to them as it arrives, of which they seem to enjoy. They were natives of Missouri. They are the parents of Mrs. Kenneth Ferree.

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It has been brought to our attention that the list of Patrons in the back of each issue of this quarterly were not all correct. We had discovered that also. The names in making up the list were taken from an old list instead of the last one. We are sorry that this happened.

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Quite often the words, 'this writer' appears in this quarterly. This writer means simply that the editor alone is responsible for the writing.

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On November 25, 1981, fifteen members of the Folklore Class of the Yates Center High School made a tour of the Woodson County Historical Museum.

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WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Organized March, 1968

The list of members of the Woodson County Historical that have been lost by death in the last three months has reached an all time high with seven members listed in our Memorian.

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IN MEMORIAN

Pearl D. Taylor 92 August 30, 1981

Mrs. Taylor had been a Life Member for several years. She and her husband S. K. Taylor had lived most of their married life in Coffey and Woodson counties.

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Alice (Hogueland) Lamb

Mrs. Lamb was a Charter Member of the Woodson County Historical Society and attended the meeting until her health prevented. Her entire life was spent in Yates Center.

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Mamie (Starkebaum) Allen 84 Sept. 20, 1981

Mrs. Allen held a Life Membership in this Society, and attended their meetings. She was active in the civic and social affairs of Yates Center.

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Viola (Barnes) Vore October, 1981

Mrs. Vore was born and grew up in Woodson County. For some years she has lived in Arkansas City.

Anna (Irvin) Tipton 94 October 10,1981

Mrs. Tipton like her husband A. W. Tipton, have belonged to the Woodson Co. Historical Society for several years. Their entire married life was spent in this county.

* * * * * * * *

Jack Mertz 80 October 21, 1981

Mr. Mertz was born in Yates Center, but moved from here when a small boy, when his father Roy Mertz moved to Oklahoma. Jack had been a Life Member just a short time before his death.

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Frank Johnson 83 October 26, 1981

Mr. Johnson was a Charter Member of the Woodson County Historical Society and always took quite an interest in all of it's activities.

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Join and Support The
WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Life Membership $25.00 Regular Membership $2.00



David Askren and wife Charlotte

* * * * * * *

In the spring of 1859 a covered wagon slowly made its way across the prairies with the oxen following the ruts of the LeRoy-Eureka wagon trail. To the south west along Turkey Creek. Along a spring fed branch about a quarter mile north of Turkey Creek the oxen and people came to the end of their long journey from Logan County, Ohio. In the wagon was David Askren, his wife Charlotte, the baby daughter Elizebeth and David's brother John S. Askren.

Near where a spring of cold, clear water surfaced close to the edge of this stream they built their log cabin. It was 16 feet square and ten feet to the eves with a crude stairway going to the loft or attic. The door was on the east side with the stone fireplace on the west end.

David Askren became a pillar in this locality. The cemetery, school and locality was named for him. His son John Wm. Asken was born in the log cabin in Feb. 1860, and evidently the first white child born in this settlement along upper Turkey Creek. Two more daughters were born to the Askrens, Charlotte, who married John Klingenburg, and Margaret. Their oldest Elizebeth married R. T. Tom Dawson. John Asken died at age 32 years.

THE DAVID SHOTTS FAMILY —

Michael Shotts and his wife emigrated from Germany early in the 17th century. They settled in Maryland and later moved to Pennsylvania where they spent the rest of their lives.

Their son David married Mary Wagoner, the daughter of Phillip and Catherine Leshon Wagoner. Phillip Wagoner was personal friend of George Washington and served in the Revolutionary War from January 1, 1777 to May 2, 1779.

David Shotts and his family moved from Chester County, Penn. and went to the valley of Virginia where he served as a scout under Gen. Mad Anthony Wayne at the battle of Fallen Timbers in 1793 in the Northwest Territory where the power of the Indian in that part of the country was broken.

The family moved to Ohio in 1809 or 1810 and settled in the Bishop Hill neighborhood south of Chillocothe. Their son David married Phoebe Bishop and were the parents of David Todd Shotts who was born in Ross County, Ohio, March 2, 1843.

David Todd Shotts enlisted in Co. A 18th Ohio Volunteer Infantry in July, 1861, and served until he was discharged in October, 1865. He was in the battles of Stone River, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and others.

In 1866, he went to Champaign, Co., Illinois and on Aug. 17, 1871, he was married to Rebecca Anne Bell, daughter of Thomas and Berilla McAllister Bell. Rebecca Bell was born Nov. 2, 1854 near Pine Valley Indiana.

In Dec. 1877, they purchased the east half of the S. E. quarter of Section 27, Twp. 25, of Woodson Co. They moved to this farm in the spring of 1878, coming by train from Illinois to Humboldt where they unloaded their household goods and livestock and drove to their new home.

Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Shotts, the following were born in Champaign Co., Illinois.

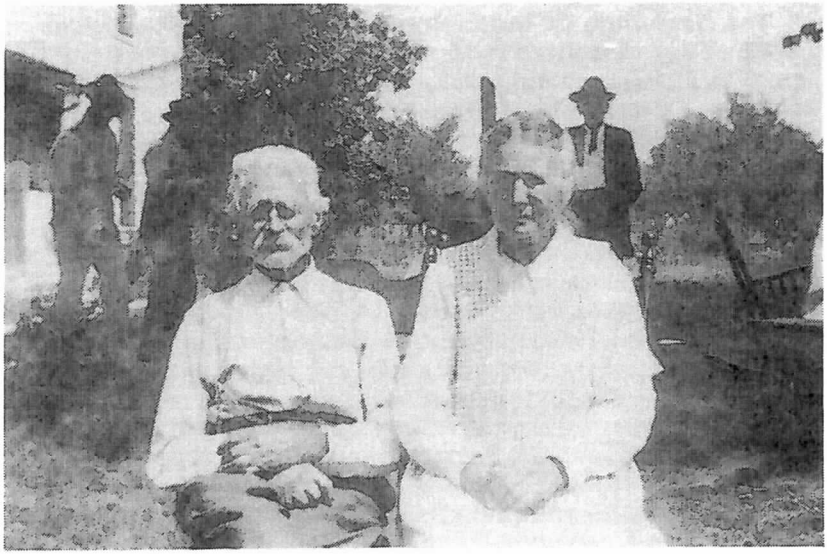
Carrie Jane, born Aug. 22, 1872, married J. T. Bayer.
Samuel P., born May 27, 1874, married Lillian Robbins.
Rhoda, born April 7, 1876. Died in infancy.

The following were born on the farm in New York Valley.

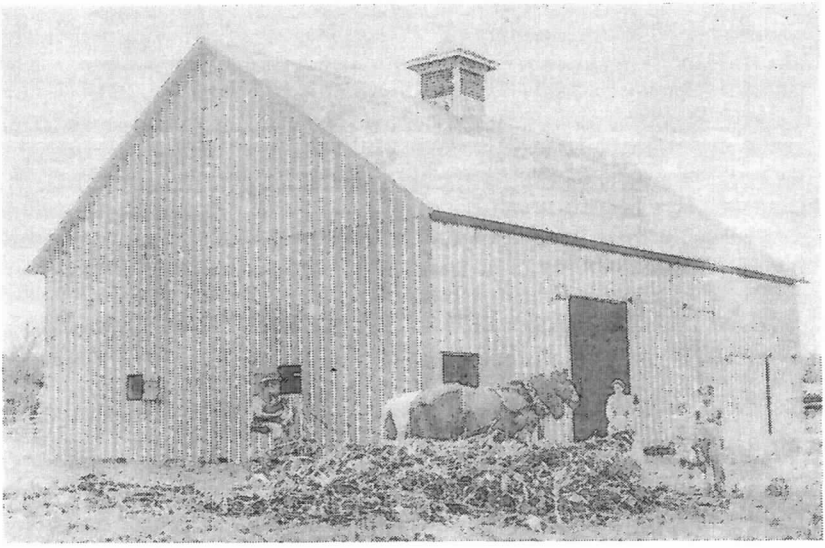
Lavinia B., born Aug. 16, 1878, married Bode C. Lamb.
Clinton D., born May 7, 1884, married Elma Herder.
Eugene T., born Oct. 3, 1888, married Edith Culver.
Ada M., born Nov. 27, 1891, married Thomas V. Rowe.

* * * * * * *

D. T. Shotts died Mar. 2, 1929, and Lavinia B., Jan. 24, 1937. They are buried in the Yates Center Cemetery, where also are the graves of four of their children.



David T. Shotts and wife Rebecca Ann Bell Shotts. In the background are Tom Rowe, Clint Shotts and B. C. Lamb.



Large barn on the Shotts farm, now owned by Robert Grisier. Clinton Shotts with the horses, next is Lavinia Shotts (Lamb), Ada Shotts (Rowe) and Eugene Shotts.

HISTORY OF BLUME SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 29 —

The beginning of the history of the Blume district was in 1882. We are indebted to Mr. N. L. Bigelow for our history as a pupil of the Blume school.

The west line of the district was as it is now, over the hills to the present Mo. Pac. Railroad. At that time one lone house nestled among the hills. It was owned by Henry Cannon, whose children attended the school-Charlie, Jesse and Joe were their names.

The south line was also as it is now, but the north and east boundries were different. At that time the Flora Hart farm and the Gray farm were included in Dist. 29, Ed and George Chandler attended the school. The school house was about 30' x 40', a very good substantial building, inside were the double wooden seats and desks, well carved with dates and initials, and the painted blackboard. The first teacher, a young German chap, whose name was Kepsel (Keep School) as the older boys called him. Some of the pupils attending were Charlie Perkins, Neil Tiller, Jarvis and Andy Blume, Loren and Charlie Bigelow, Otis Tyrer, Frank Jewett, Frank Van Atta, Cinda Mercer (Blume), Becky Mercer (White) and Kate Carley, 42 pupils enrolled. Other teachers were Nathan Holt, Will Bigelow, Andrew Kannard (who later became Co. Superintendent), Laura Gregory and Mrs. Thoroughman.

About this time, there was considerable controversy about moving the school house to a more central location. There were many "Pros and Cons". Finally a location was obtained on the northeast corner of the McGanan quarter, or across the road west from ther Bigelow farm, on the crossroads. In the fall of 1890, on a Saturday before the starting of school, the dear old school house was pulled off its foundation, only to spend the night in the Buffalo Creek bed, one-half mile south. The school house burned one dark night. Two rooms of the Bigelow home (the old stone house) were turned into school rooms for temporary use, where 15 to 20 pupils were taught by Charlie Bigelow. Before another school year the Harmony District was organized, taking some off of each of the Rose, Brush, Center Ridge and the Blume District leaving the boundaries of Dist. 29 practically as they are today. A very small school house was built on the original site and things moved along uneventfully for some time.

In 1915 the patrons saw the need of a larger and more modern school building, and the one now in use was built and dedicated about Feb. 1916 by giving the play "Tompkins Hired Man" followed by a pie supper.

The new building, fairly well equipped, cost approximately $1400. and all were proud of the new building which compared favorably with others in our locality.

(The proceeding history of Dist #29 was written around 1935, evidently by the teacher at that time.)

The records in the courthouse of the teachers of this school do not agree about the first teacher whose name was Emma Patterson and taught there in winter of 1881. The next teacher was Lewis Keopsol as mentioned. W. G. Holt was the next teacher and taught the next three terms, 1883-'84-'85. Other teachers in order were:

Will Bigelow, Joseph Clayton, Laura Gregory, Estella Roberts, Albert Ibbetson, Maggie Bell, Edith Dumond, Rosa Dewitt, Margaret Bell, Lucy Darst, 1900-01; Ella Bradford, Eva Darst, '03-'04; Edith Dumond, Olive Culver, Pearl Thouroughman, Clara Pickering, Nellie Burns, Ruth McCormick, '16-'17; Celia Davidson, Nellie Wyse, Blanche Rogers, Nellie Wyse, Manila Rousch, Freda Sommers, Mrs. Ollie Mabe, Mary Pucket, Elmer Burton (3 terms), Medora Brock, Elizebeth Steele (2), Elsie Gillespie, (3), Elaine Leonard, Mrs. Frances Mayers, Catherine Thomas, Ralph Waters, Walter Robertson (2), June Paustian, Mrs. Luena Mears, Mrs. Helen Leonard, Kathleen Isaacs (2), Tommy Morrison (2), Viola Padfield (3), Mae Canty, Ila Garner, 1954-55 term. Being the last term of school for this school.

The name of Blume for this school came from Protus and Christina Blume, who lived across the corner from where the school house was located. The school was on land first leased to the District #29, was in the very northeast corner of Section 28.

Protus Blume was born in Strasburg, Germany, in 1832. He came to America with his father when ten years old. Protus Blume came to Indiana where he met and married Miss Christina McKinsie, a native of Indiana, in 1858.

As a member of the Fortieth Indiana Infantry he was severely wounded during the Civil War. He went back to farming and spring of 1868, he landed in Humboldt, Kans. with only $1.65 in his pockets. The next day he started working for Wm. Lassman hauling sand. Three months later he filed on a claim of 160 acres in Eminence township along East Buffalo Creek in S. W. quarter of Sec. 28, Twp. 26, Range 16.

Mr. and Mrs. Blume were parents of five children, Joseph, Andrew, Jarvis, Anna and John H.

The Protus Blume family built this homestead quarter section into a fine farm. A large two-story house, 3 large barns. The cattle barn would accommodate 65 head of cattle, two barns for horses, cow pens and other buildings, "resembling a little village", as one writer described it. A fine grove of maple trees was set out containing one thousand and 28 trees.

Mr. and Mrs. Blume moved to Yates Center in their later years, leaving the farm for others to take care of.

For the past several years, this farm has been owned and operated by Mrs. Martha (Bishop) (Mrs. Carl Stoll).

THE WILLIAM FRY FAMILY —

We did not learn the name of the father of William Fry but he was a commander of an English war boat during the War of 1812 between United States and England.

For some reason Commander Fry wanted to surrender his boat to the enemy (United States) or the commander of a similiar gun or war boat. An argument seemed to come up between Commander and his Junior officer, about the surrender. As a result the junior officer shot and killed his commander.

It seems that in those days the family of a commander of a boat or ship could take his family with him on their travels and engagements with the enemy. With Commander Fry was his wife and two sons. Commander Wm. Fry was evidently burried at sea and his family was put ashore and made their way to Columbus, Ohio. Mrs. Fry and son William stayed in Ohio for a while, but the other son went to Spain and was never heard from again.

It is this William Fry that we will take up now. In Ohio he was married to Amanda ----. We believe that their four children were born in Ohio. They were James, Style (Tyle), Edmond and Susan.

The Fry family came to Kansas and Woodson County sometime in the early 1870's, residing at Kalida.

Taking up the different families, James Fry married Mary Yaney. Their children were, Tom, Mable and Nell. Tom married Anna Eisenbardt. Mable married ---- and Nell married Pat O'Donnell, Jr.

Edmond married Carrie Adell Baxter. Their children were, Claude, Ossie, Lon E. and Elsie. Claude married Mollie Blandy. Their children were Dale and Lucille. Ossie married ---- ----. Lon E. married Martha ----.

Style Fry and wife lived at Columbus, Ohio and we know very little about him. Susan married William Kay. Their children were, Albert, George and Maude. Albert married Prudie Stever. Their children were Luanna and Marie. George never married. Maude married Dave Scheaks. Their children were, Georgia and Ruth.

Lon Fry who the editor has corresponded with and gave the early history of the Fry's and sent the family picture. We will tell some more about him later.

The Fry and Kay families were among the first families to move into the "new" town of Yates Center. Wm. H. Kay moved the third house into Yates Center from the townsite of Kalida. The Kay's occupied this house that stood where the telephone office now is.



Wm. Fry Family

Top Row - Wm. H. Kay, Mrs. Tyle Fry, Tyle Fry, James Fry, Mary Yaney, Edmond Fry.
Bottom Row - Susan Fry Kay, Wm. Fry & wife Amanda Fry, Carrie A. Baxter Fry.



Pusey Graves

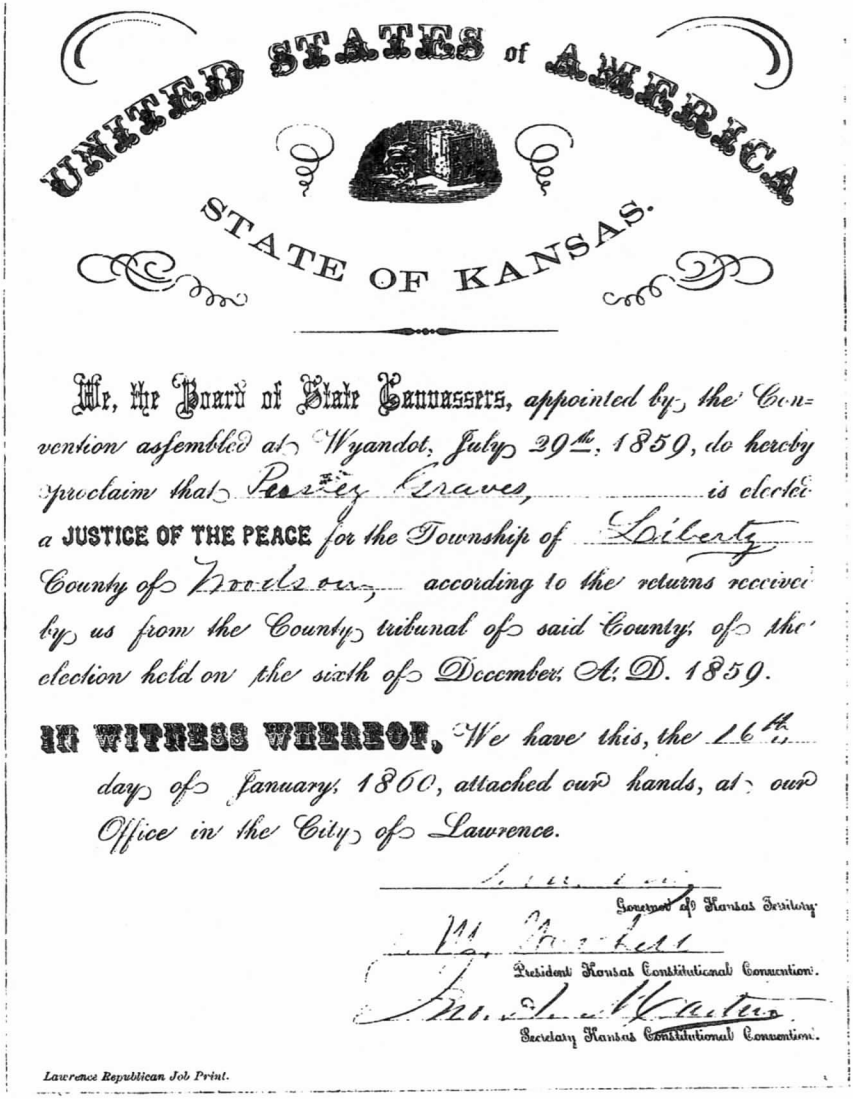
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Pusey Graves was a native of the State of Delaware, being born there in 1813. With his parents he was devoted to the Quaker religion. In July, 1837, he was married to Miss Jane Witchell. They were the parents of seven children, Charles, Mary Ann, George T., Albert, Irene, Clayton and John W., the latter being the only one born in Woodson County.

Pusey Graves homesteaded on the South half of the S. W. quarter of Sec. 7, and the North half of N. E. quarter of Sec. 18, Twp. 24, R. 15, with Turkey Creek winding through the quarter section.

Coming here in the spring of 1859, Graves entered the political field in Dec. 1959, election. He was elected to the office of Justice of Peace that he held for some time. In 1861 he was elected as Representative in the last Territorial Legislature of Kansas. In 1862 Pusey Graves was elected as Probate Judge of Woodson County, an office he held for eleven years. Also one term as Clerk of Court.

In 1895 Pusey Graves sold his farm to Nathaniel Chambers and son-in-law, George W. Williams. It has remained in the Williams name ever since.



UNITED STATES of AMERICA

STATE OF KANSAS.

We, the Board of State Canvassers, appointed by the Convention assembled at Wyandot, July 29th, 1859, do hereby proclaim that Pusey Graves, is elected a JUSTICE OF THE PEACE for the Township of Liberty County of Woodson, according to the returns received by us from the County tribunal of said County, of the election held on the sixth of December, A. D. 1859.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have this, the 16th day of January, 1860, attached our hands, at our Office in the City of Lawrence.

Governor of Kansas Territory.

President Kansas Constitutional Convention.

Secretary Kansas Constitutional Convention.

Lawrence Republican Job Print.

This is a replica of the Charter Pusey Graves received at the time of his election as Justice of the Peace of Liberty Township. Liberty Township at that time took in the entire northwest part of Woodson County; although there were very few settlers in the western half of the township.

YATES CENTER NEWS — February 27, 1941 —

To the strains of martial music provided by the Yates Center high school band Woodson County's first selective service contingent departed from the Santa Fe Trailways bus depot here at 7:05 Tuesday evening.

Several hundred people turned out to greet the new soldiers and cheer them as the blue and white clad band marched in formation and stopped on the sidewalk in front of Baker's Drug Store where the "U. S. Artillery March" and several other appropriate numbers were played while the selectees were bidding farewell and boarding the bus.

The Woodson county draft unit had mobilized at 4:30 at the draft board office in the court house where they had delivered their induction papers to the clerk of the local board, Lou Peake. At 5 o'clock the group had been taken to the B & B Cafe where they partook of their first meal at the government's expense.

After boarding the east bound bus at the depot here the unit was dropped off at Iola where they boarded a Santa Fe train for Kansas City, transferring from Union Station to a train departing at 11:59 p.m. and arriving Leavenworth at 12:45 Wednesday morning.

The group is to be inducted at Ft. Leavenworth within the next few days and given further orders.

The Woodson County contingent which left for Ft. Leavenworth was 20 men. Here are the men who departed in the February unit listing only their last names in the order which they were called; Cantrell, Shaw, Martin, Mulnow, Reed, Turk, Smith, Monk, Jasper, Marple, Bauer, Hobbs, Mereweather, Underwood, Zeigler, Shaff, Crane, Turk, Acridge, and Henson.

* * * * * * *

The departure of Woodson County's first selective service unit for Ft. Leavenworth Tuesday evening brought forth a coincidence which was unusual and rather worthy of mentioning here.

Lynn Cantrell and Glen Shaw, two of the group's volunteers, were named Tuesday morning as leaders of the contingent until the men were installed at Ft. Leavenworth. This was interesting in the fact that just 23 years ago an uncle of each of these two young men was named a leader to convoy one of the first units to leave Yates Center for World War camp training. J. Stanley Cantrell Jr., and Glen A. Shaw, both now deceased, werer the two trainees selected to head the World War group and had in their charge a portion of old Company L stationed at Yates Center.

THE WILLIAM H. PEAKE FAMILY —

While the writer of this quarterly has written quite a lot about the Peake family in our column Prairie Life we have never attempted to write the story of the family and their lives, as W. H. and Maggie Peake were special people to us.

William H. Peake was born Sept. 25, 1846, at Springfield, Illinois. Here he spent his boyhood, near the home of Abraham Lincoln whom he remembered as walking past the Peake home.

On April 9, 1876, Wm. H. Peake was married to Miss Margaret Locke. The early years of her life were rather unusual as we will tell a part of it.

John Locke who we believe came from Kentucky, went to the newly opened gold fields of California. The place is thought to be Sacremento or nearby. Here at one of the gambling houses and saloon he met a young lady by the name of Elizabeth Brown. Soon afterwards John and Elizabeth were married. To them was born a baby daughter given the name of Margaret. It did not take John Locke long to realize that a gold rush town was not a place to raise a small daughter, and made plans to leave. His wife Elizabeth however would not leave. The small girl was around five years of age when her father decided to leave without the mother. In later years Margaret could remember nothing of the town except that it was "between two mountains".

Taking his small daughter, John Locke took passage on a boat going from the California coast around the point of South America and up the eastern coast of United States. Going to somewhere in Kentucky, where they made their home with a family named Williams. This was just before the start of the Civil War and the state of Kentucky was divided over the slavery question. John Locke was anti-slavery and believed it best he moved to another state, so again he and his small daughter, this time to Springfield, Illinois, where she met Wm. H. Peake.

Sometime in the latter 1880's, the Peake family moved to Kansas, living for a while at Mahaska, in Washington Co., Kans., later moving to St. John, Kans. and in the spring of 1890, they purchased the east half of the southwest quarter of Sec. 6, Twp. 24, R. 15. and remained in the Peake family for about the next 80 years. They also owned the 80 acres across the road to the south. The house was on the north side of the road and the barn south of the road.

Wm. H. and Margaret Peake were the parents of eleven children. John, Susie, Charles, Grace, Frank and Ella all coming to Woodson County with them. Louis, June, Nellie, Beatrice and Ruth being born here.

In 1900, an epidemic of typhoid fever broke out in the Peake family. Frank Peake who was 18 years old and Beatrice both died the same day, on October 2, 1900, with Ruth dying the next day. Mr. and Mrs. Peake and eight of their children are buried in the Askren Cemetery.



The Peake Family

Back row - L to R., Grace, Charles J., Susie or Susan, Louis, June. Seated - Wm. H. and wife Margaret, and oldest son John.

Grace married Harvey Keir. They had no children.

Charles married Mary Wells. Their children were, Byron and Vernona. In later years after Mary died, Charles married Lura Rayburn Stewart.

Susie and Louis neither one married.

June married Leland Culbertson. Their children were M. Emerson, Helen, Marilyn and Mardell.

John married Maggie Bradney. This family moved to northern Kansas.

Susie and June both taught in the rural schools of Woodson Co. Susie was also County Superintendent of Public instruction for two terms.

Louis was a Sgt. in World War I, and clerk of the local draft board in World War II. Byron gave his life in W. W. II, when the boat he was on was sank off the coast of England.



Margaret Locke Peake as a young girl.



About the time this picture was taken that the writer best remembers Mr. & Mrs. Peake. I always thought that I was something special to these folks from the time we spent at the Peake home that we always called our 'second home'. Mr. Peake was perhaps 70 years old when we started working with him stacking wheat. For a couple of years I would load the bundles of wheat as he would pitch them from the shock to the wagon. Then one summer Mr. Peake spread the bundles as we pitched them from the shock. He would tell stories of his boyhood and the highlight would be his acquaintance with Abraham Lincoln who lived near the Peake home.

The following story was written by Vera Dell (Mrs. N. K.) Hearn and was awarded second place in a state Folklore Contest, sponsored by the Kansas Federation of Women's Clubs. "Old Silver City", a fictitious tale based on fact appeared in the July issue of the Kansas Clubwomen, State Federation Magazine, and it was printed in the Yates Center News of June 12, 1941, since the setting of the story was found in Woodson County.

"OLD SILVER CITY"

The sun abruptly broke through the clouds as the April shower subsided. Its brilliance was startling, as though its beams were playing hide and seek with the rain drops.

It must have been just such a moment in Kansas Territory that afternoon in 1856, that Uncle Jacob pushed aside the canvas covering from the entrance way to his covered wagon and gazed about the drenched landscape. Where an hour before the low-hanging clouds had forecast this shower, the sun now, just as boldly predicted it was over. The desolate and lonely hills appeared more friendly as the clouds slowly drifted apart and the sun's rays streamed forth.

The grass beside the trail was shoulder high to the horses which Uncle had pulled to a halt during the worst of the shower and sheltered himself inside. For miles in every direction it looked like that. But off to the southwest heavy clumps of timber broke the monotony.

Then suddenly out of that scene, a particular hill top drew his attention. What was that unusual panoramic aspect? A million little stars seemed to be dancing on it's sides. It became more brilliant as he watched. "Oh well, just a trick of fancy, or maybe a mirage," he said to himself. "Better be on our way in hopes of a more promising campsite before dusk settles".

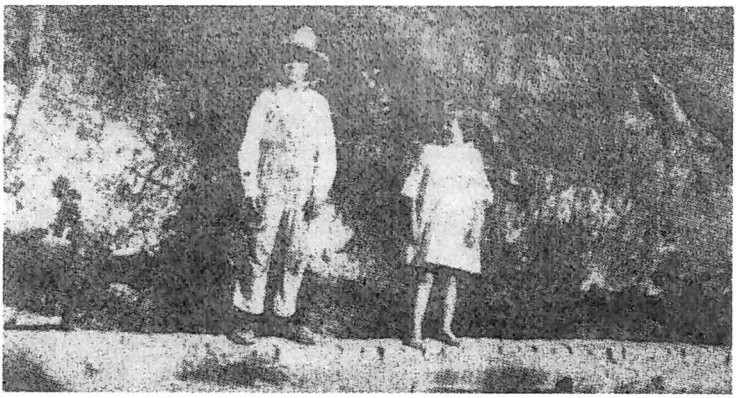
At a familiar cluck to the horses they started forward, and again Uncle Jacob's glance swept the vista round about Kansas Territory held much of promise he thought, as he mentally recalled the miles along the trail. Again his eyes rested on the distance hill. The glittering phenomena persisted. He called to his wife Aunt Mary, who was resting on the bunk inside the wagon. Maybe it was just his imagination, he thought, but if not, it was a sight not to miss on this lonely trek west. "Look", he told her and gestured toward the south. She was speechless with awe and amazement, and then exclaimed audibly of its gorgous aspect.

As they drove on they watched and talked, and gradually the glittering faded as the sun moved westward. They camped that night with some folks from Illinois, near the foot of the hill and the next day tramped over its surface. Strange yellowish rocks held their attention. They seemed to not only cover, but be

imbedded, in the entire hillsides. Undoubtedly they had discovered a great deposit of gold ore. And needless to say, that very day they began gathering the valuable stones. As days and weeks went by more covered wagons stopped and others continued to come for word of the discovery of gold in Kansas had spread. Even the presence of a neighboring Indian camping ground did not hinder the growth of the settlement that was rapidly springing up. Surely it was destined to be the mecca of the southwest as those pioneers, weary from long travels and discouraged by frontier hardships continued to come where wealth seemed so abundant.

Then one day, nearly a year later some prospector suggested a testing of some of the rocks to know just what the gold content might be. After many weeks of eager anxious waiting for mails were few and far between, the report came back. "Not gold, but pyrite". Not the precious ore, but a valueless Fool's Gold.

It was a dreary, disappointed lot of pioneers that assembled their schooners and slowly, but surely deserted the town that had sprung up in southeastern Kansas. It is "Old Silver City" the natives have dubbed the site as the story has been told and retold. And today down in southwestern Woodson county, when the sun suddenly peers forth after a shower, that same hill sparkled as it has for thousands of years, as though studded with millions and millions of diamonds: now a silent monument to a thwarted dream.



The above is a picture of the spring, near the site of "Old Silver City". The young people in the picture are Clyde and Lois Hill. At the time the picture was taken, Clyde was 3 years of age and Lois was 7.

The land where the site of Silver City has been in the Hill family for almost 100 years.



These three Krueger Brothers, Fred, Henry and August were the beginning of the Krueger name in Yates Center. All three brothers were born in Lippe-Detmold, Germany.

It was in the early 1880's when Fred Krueger, the oldest of Krueger brothers, arrived in Woodson County. He was born in 1863. Fred was followed by his brother Henry who had learned the bakery trade as a youth and had been employed in St. Louis, Mo., before coming to Woodson County.

In approximately 1888, Henry hung out his "Shingle" with the sign, KRUEGER'S RESTAURANT & CONFECTIONERY on the east side of the square. The name "Krueger" has been somewhere on the square in Yates Center since that time.

Henry Krueger was married to Miss Martha Harder of Durand. They were parents of one daughter, Emma.

In 1890, Henry moved to the southeast side of the square, where he added a bakery to the existing building. The following year, 1891, Henry's younger brother August. The store was divided in three divisions; a Restaurant, a General Store and a Bakery. They also aquired the hotel across the street east where the former Light Hardware building is now located. In addition the brothers also operated a Bottling Works where "Temperance Drinks" were bottled, including Coca Cola which was not franchised at that time.

Later the brothers leased the business to a Mr. Klein. Henry then constructed a Bakery near his home at 204 East Rutledge and confined his work strictly to the bakery trade. Besides the local trade he shipped bakery goods to surrounding towns by Railroad Express.

When the Indian Territory in Oklahoma was opened for settlement Fred Krueger made the run in a covered wagon. Not successful in obtaining a 'free claim', he purchased a "Claim" from three men who had staked out a claim for themselves. Mr. Krueger bought the claim, giving the men $100 a piece for it.

Fred then came back to Yates Center, where he married Mathilda Post, who was also a native of Germany. They went to the claim in Oklahoma, near Orlanda, and built a home. Here five of their six children were born, Martha, Esther, Ruth and Helen. The boys were Albert and Elmer. All were born on this homestead except Helen.

In 1907 the Fred Krueger family returned to Woodson County, and purchased a farm on Owl Creek just to the north of the Yates Center city limits.

Martha Krueger was a teacher in the rural schools of this county for several years. She never married.

Esther never married, but helped in the care of her parents.

Ruth also taught in the rural schools of Woodson County. Ruth married Kenneth K. Elder, who was a retired officer of the U. S. Army.

Helen married Bill Kuhl, who was also a retired Army officer.

Albert married Margaret Fulhage. They had one daughter, Kathy. Albert and Margaret live on the home farm where he has lived most of his life.

The story and life of Elmer F. Krueger will be on another page.



This ad was found in the Woodson Democrat Weekly, published in Yates Center, Kansas, Friday, December 20, 1889, and was probably the first advertisement put out by Henry Krueger. He moved his bakery to the southeast corner of the square the next year.

While August Krueger was the youngest of the three brothers he seemed to be the most active and get his name in the paper more. After going into business for himself, August ventured into several different businesses.

When the Missouri Pacific Railroad made the cut-off from Durand to Yates Center it was thought that a town would spring up and do a good business at Durand. August went to Durand in 1903 and started up a restaurant, operated a hotel and then added a grocery store to his enterprise. An ad ran in the Yates Center News of July 10, 1903. "New store at Durand, ready for business in connection with our lunch room at the cut-off. We have opened a complete general merchandise store. Highest prices paid for butter and eggs." AUGUST KRUEGER.

The little village of Durand did not materialize as the public thought, and after three years August Krueger moved back to Yates Center. Here on the west side of the square August and his wife, Augusta Hubblesmyer, again started in the restaurant business. Their opening day was Memorial Day in May, 1906. They stayed in business here for several years.

August and Augusta Krueger were parents of four children, Walter, Elsie, Metta and Nelson. Walter married Gladys Kesterson.

In 1919, they closed the restaurant and opened a Variety Store at 119 North State St. (West side of the square.)

No story of August Krueger would be complete without telling some of his automobiles. His first car was a two cylinder, Maxwell, 1908 model. It was a little red 2-seated, with a right hand drive. He did some taxi business with this car, and also taking passengers, especially children for rides at 25 cents each. The streets around the square were not hard surfaced but dirt and mud when it rained. Along the north side of the square there was a mud hole that bothered some. One day while August was taking a group of kids for a ride he got his car stuck in the mud hole. The kids all jumped out and pushed the car from the hole, got back on and took another ride around the square.

His next car was a six cylinder Mitchell, also a right hand drive. Yates Center had a good baseball team and August would load the entire team in the seven passenger car and take them to the ball park. This was a 1911 car. We have a couple more good stories about this car and its drivers, but space does not allow it here.

August ran a taxi to meet the north and south bound trains coming into Durand.

When Mr. and Mrs. August Krueger retired, the store was operated by Lucille Toedman and Bill and Carrie Fortner. In 1948, the store was sold to Elmer F. Krueger and wife Leona.

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Elmer F. Krueger, son of Fred and Mathilda Post Krueger was born November 13, 1904, at Orlando, Okla. Around three years later the family moved back to Woodson County. Elmer graduated from the Yates Center school system, attended Kansas University, and Emporia Teachers College. His first occupation was teaching school, which lasted for 17 years. During the World War II era he worked for the U. S. Employment Service.

Elmer was married to Miss Leona Miller. Their children were, Richard F. Krueger of Kansas City, Mo., who married Jane Manske. They have two children, Carl, and Caroline, Leona passed away in September, 1966, at the age of 51 years. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Miller.

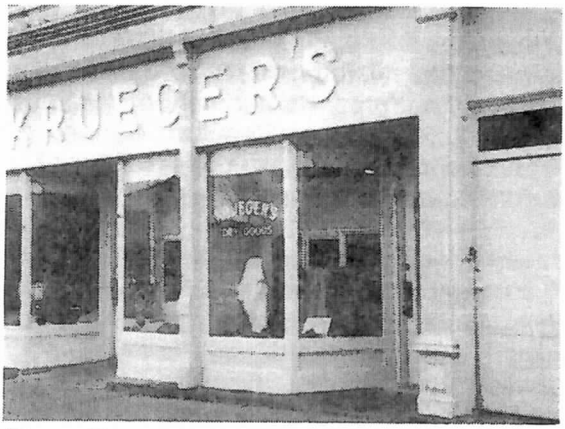
Karon Joanne Krueger, daughter of Elmer and Leona, has lived in Washington, D. C. for several years, where at present she is an attorney.

Elmer was one of the leaders in the organization of the Woodson County Historical Society. Elmer, Leona and children were all Charter Members. At the organization election, Elmer was elected as Treasurer of the Society, and has held that office for the past 16 years.

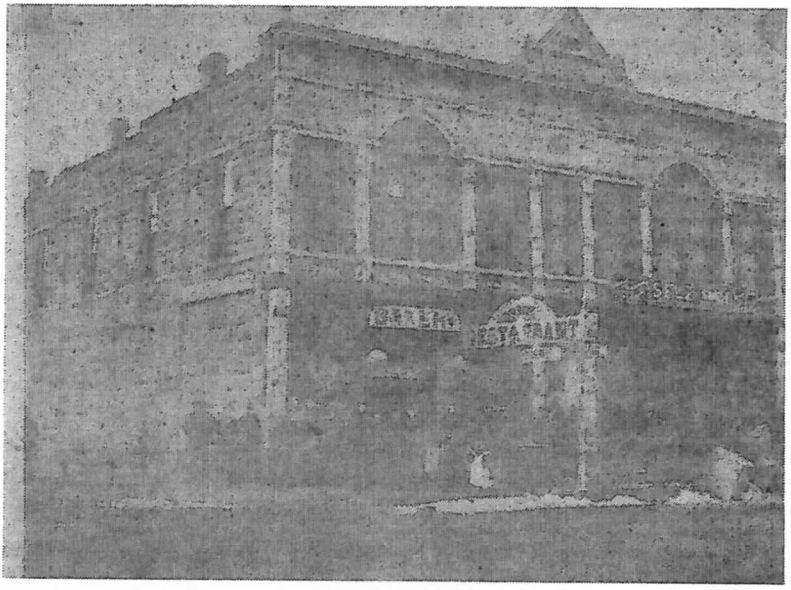


Karon Joanne and Richard F. standing. Seated are Leona F. and Elmer F. Krueger.

In April of 1948, Elmer and Leona Krueger purchased the stock of goods in the variety store. After two years they purchased the building on the south side of the square, and is still known as KRUEGERS, Variety and Dry Goods Store.



In 1950 Elmer Krueger moved to his present location featuring a hand-carved rabbit every Easter.



Henry Krueger's Restaurant-Bakery and William Lauber and Henry Stockebrand's Grocery and Dry Goods Store were situated on the southeast corner of the square where the present House of Fabrics and "Merchantile" are located. The picture was taken around 1895.

COVER PICTURE FOR JANUARY, 1982 —

Cover picture for this issue is of "Head Coach Brett Steiner." Two year old son of Bill and Linda Steiner, and grandson of Bill and Evelyn Steiner, and maternal grandson of Tom and Romona Laidlaw. Paternal grandmother is Mrs. Hazel Steiner and Maternal grandmother is Mrs. Amanda Mulsow. Brett has an older brother Chad. Brett was born on November 21, on the same day as this writer, only 75 years later!

YATES CENTER NEWS - July, 1941 —

Barber prices up - Our city barber shops did a rushing business Monday, as on Tuesday, July 1, the new prices went into effect. This law was passed by the last legislature and the prices are uniform over the state in each district. In this district the prices for shaves are 20¢ and haircuts are 35¢.

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In a letter from Lois Patterson Humphrey, she writes. "The cover picture of Vol. 14-No.55, brings back memories of my childhood. My Dad William and brother Earle (Patterson) had quite a thriving business in their garage. Earle's bulldog 'Caeser', and later his collie 'Captain' were good watch dogs. That is a splendid picture of Company L, in the last issue of "In The Beginning'. Another member of Co. L, that I can identify is my cousin Ray Hartshorn-Row 3-No. 10. (End of row). In W. W. I, he was wounded in France, and was in hospitals 18 times having shrapnel removed." (Mrs. Humphrey now lives in Berkley, Calif.)

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The New York Valley schoolhouse was located on the southeast corner of the Shotts farm, and the New York Valley Church was on the boundry line of the Grisier east boundry line and the Shotts west boundry line that was donated by these families.

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In one of the Period rooms upstairs at the Woodson County Historical Museum, is a hand made drop leaf table made of wild cherry wood from the farm of Edmond Fry. This table was shipped to Oregon by Lon Fry. And after the Museum was established it was sent back to Woodson County by Lon Fry. It was made by Mr. Baxter, the father of Carrie Baxter Fry for their wedding.

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WOODSON COUNTY ADVOCATE - Sept. 1914 —

$50.00 Reward

The city of Yates Center offers a reward of Fifty Dollars for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of any one found guilty of distributing or selling intoxicating liquor.

By order of the City Council. - Sept. 11, 1914

J. W. Depew, City Clerk.

PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Brown's Western Auto
Milton & Virginia Schornick
Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand
John V. Glades Agency
Street Abstract Co., Inc.
State Exchange Bank
Self Service Grocery
Krueger's Variety & Dry Goods
HiWay Food Basket
Piqua Farmers Co-op
Gaulding Oil Co.
Donald E. Ward
Morton Equipment Co.
Swope & Son Implement Co.
Superior Bldg. & Supply, Inc.
The Herring Families
Clyde Hill
Cantrell Pontiac-Buick
Lawrence Flower Shop
Virgil & Iris Winfrey
Yates Center News
Artex Manufacturing Co.
J. C. Schnell
Gambles Hardware & Home Furnishings
Glen Shaw
Steiner's Sundries
Pringle Ranch, J. Richard Pringle
Campbell Plumbing & Electric
Kimbell Ranch-Ed Kimbell
Daylight Donut Shop
Edwin H. Bideau Associated Agency, Chanute
First National Bank, Toronto
Blackjack Cattle Co., Inc.
Yates Center Elevator
Jasper's Shopping Spot
Bill Taylor-Gen. Agent Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Atkin Clinic
Daly Western Supply
Jaynes Insurance Agency
Al's Jewelry
Linde Barber Shop
Bill Herman
Milton & Marcella Wrampe
Elmer E. Light
Atkin Rexall Pharmacy
Campbell Funeral Home
Glen & Zola Baker
Piqua State Bank
Thomas Wilson
Ken Kimbell
Rex Butler, Nashville, TN
Edwin G. Reid, St. Louis, MO
Wilma Mark